

Essen, 1 May 1947.

To the Minister of Justice.

Petition of the family Josef Käufer for release of their son Karl Käufer from detention.

Our son and father of 4 children born 27 Feb 1907 was arrested on 20 Dec 44 on a charge of throwing English air-men from the Wickenburg bridge and is at present in Werl. On the occasion of our respectively his wife's visits he assures us that he is innocent and has nothing to do with this case. He is longing for his release. My wife Maria Käufer is 62 years old and suffers from cardiac troubles. She weighs now only 80 pounds. The worry about her son has told heavily on her health and she daily awaits the return of her son. We fervently beg the Minister of Justice to examine our case and to answer our petition.

Your obedient servants.

(signed) Josef Käufer,
Frau Josef Käufer
Frau Karl Käufer.

tacks on the German civilian population (mostly women and children), there was no reason why the Germans should keep to international usages of war-fare. The war-fare of the Allied in the West was barbarous, their flyers were no longer soldiers but lent themselves as murderers, who declined pardon to old people, women and children. Who lends his hand to such a mode of war-fare is a war-criminal. We German women and children demanded atonement for these cruelties. The Hitler-Regime was a Government System, chosen by the people. Its defence forces had to act according to the wishes of the people who cried for atonement. The three landed flyers had deserved their death a hundred times. When Dresden had to be made a reception-camp for the fugitives from the East and was filled with people the Allied in the West organized a great attack on these people with phosphorous, incendiary bombs and bomb-carpets. Pardon was declined to the thousands of people. We German women and children have a greater right to demand from the Allied in the West atonement for war-crimes. I repeatedly say Allied in the West because the Russians have acted much more humane. The Allied have much to make up for respecting the German people. Numberless valuable German men have recently been condemned to death, although without guilt. This must be stopped if a lasting peace in Europe is not to be endangered. The hatred of the Germans may grow to become dangerous. The real political standpoint of the Germans will never be made out by the Allied in the West. They are only told what they want to hear, in order to avoid persecution. Is that what you call democracy? I am absolutely open-hearted and tell you everything as it is, even if it is not agreeable to hear. If the misery and the wretchedness, caused by the murderous air attacks, are to be removed, in the first instance further losses of life among the Germans must be avoided.

p.t.o.